IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for processing a packet being received from a physical layer by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet, the method comprising acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer, said acts comprising:

a) storing a received portion of the packet being received from the physical layer;

b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch; and,

c) upon, and in the event of, error being detected during said transmitting,

i) stopping said storing, and said transmitting, of said packet being received; and

ii) sending, to said switch, a signal indicating occurrence of the error and a signal indicating an end of said packet being received.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2̲1, wherein the method further comprising the step of preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the packet in which the error is detected.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2̲1̶7̶, wherein said storing is to a storage memory comprising said memory comprises a FIFO (First-In, First-Out) memory.

5. - 6. (Canceled)

7. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method for processing a packet being received from a physical layer by a MAC layer of an Ethernet, the method comprising acts performed as said packet is received from the physical layer, said acts comprising:

a) storing a received portion of the packet being received from the physical layer;

b) transmitting the stored portion to a switch; and

c) upon, and in the event of, error being detected while said portion is being received from the physical layer,

i) stopping said storing, and said transmitting, of said packet being received; and

ii) sending, to said switch, a signal indicating occurrence of the error and a signal indicating an end of said packet that is being received.